

Coastal Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Coastal TAC Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2008

Members attending: Annette van Niejenhuis (chair), Brian Saunders, Michael Stoehr, David Reid, Dave Kolotelo, Tim Crowder, Diane Douglas, Charlie Cartwright, Chang-yi Xie, Joe Webber, John King, Alvin Yanchuk

Regrets: Sally Aitken, Patti Brown, John Russell

Others attending: Bevin Wigmore, Jack Woods, Carolyn Lohr, Robb Bennett

Minutes: Jack Woods

1. Provincial climate-change and other initiatives - Brian Barber

- discussed recent provincial government initiatives concerning climate change and forestry
- mentioned Tree Improvement Branch (TIB) interest in re-opening discussion with coastal industry on Interim Use Agreements

2. Breeding program plans and budgets

- Douglas-fir – Michael Stoehr
 - o Brian Saunders asked for a tour to Fdc sites for coastal foresters; particularly the high elevation sites

Action item: Michael Stoehr to provide a recommendation to TIB regarding the movement of low elevation Maritime Fdc seed to the SM under 400m.

- Redcedar and Yellow Cypress - presented by Alvin for John Russell
- Hemlock and true firs – Charlie Cartwright
 - o concern that reduced program effort may not allow sufficient budget to maintain the integrity of existing trials
 - o Charlie and Alvin will discuss what's needed to maintain the Hw program tests without advancing testing into new series
 - o Balsam (Bl, Bn and Ba) genecology trials discussed
 - o Bn trials not measured as planned
- Sitka spruce and white pine – John King
 - o delayed hybrid work
 - o weevil work ongoing; developing a hazard rating model
 - o discussion around Ss weevil BVR values. High std error. Considering continuous breeding values vs categorical values; agreed that information is lost with categorical values.
 - o John developing hazard rating adjustments; these will influence breeding values.
 - o Pw 07/08 – crossing and F1 trials have proceeded very well, but rust screening of seedlings has been problematic
 - o Total Pw budget \$155k

Coastal Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

- Broadleaves – Chang-yi Xie
 - o Maple provenance trials to be planted in 2008 (4 sites); large seedlings
 - o Dave K. – seed storage is a big issue for maple and Garry oak
 - o Maintenance work planned for alder trials
- Breeders budget summary
 - o total provincial operating \$1.542 million; coast \$.974; interior \$.568 plus salaries; coast includes some interior work (Bl, Cw)

MOTION:

The coastal breeding budgets as presented and totalling \$974,000 are hereby approved by CTAC. (Tim Crowder / Michael Stoehr), CARRIED

Point made that mid Feb. is a difficult time to have the CTAC meeting due to early field work such as breeding.

3. FGC genecology and seed transfer process - Jack

- The FGC has set up a committee to review FIA Tree Improvement Program planning, prioritization, and funding processes for genecology and seed transfer work. This will also link to climate-change initiatives. This committee is expected to complete it's recommendation for the June, 2008 FGC meeting.

4. Coastal broadleaf report – Chang-yi Xie

- Report commissioned on behalf of the FGC and completed in 2007
- FGC asked CTAC and ITAC to review the coastal and interior broadleaf reports,
- Annette – low economic value limits Licensee interest
- Brian S – no assurance that investment in broadleaves would result in Licensees getting a return; broadleaves take more investment to create a sawlog. On private land they have that assurance, but the sites tend to be limited niche sites.

Action item; Alvin and Brian Barber to clarify Jim's expectations with respect to the broadleaf reports

Action item: CTAC members to read report and comment back to Annette and Jack, who will summarize for FGC

5. Pollen Contamination in Coastal orchards - Joe Webber

- presented data from pollen monitoring for 2005, 2006, and 2007
- discussion regarding determining thresholds on contaminant pollen monitoring; when is it needed, etc.
- Annette presented a graph which shows levels of GW loss with various levels of pollen contamination. How much is a problem? Where do we require monitoring vs no monitoring?
- Q from Joe: Do we need to monitor (Fd, Hw, Cw)? If yes, then we need to standardize monitoring, sampling and counting procedures, orchard phenology and crop assessment, reporting

Coastal Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

- Annette would like to see a best-practices recommendation with respect to orchard pollen monitoring. Joe feels it is premature, as more years of data are needed, and the research led by Yousry El-Kassaby needs to be completed
- The following recommendation was developed:
 - o **Recommendation:**
 - Hw , (only continue monitoring research for one more year (2008)
 - Cw and Fdc continue Joe's monitoring work for 2008 and 2009
 - Review Yousry's research when complete
 - Prepare best practices recommendations for Cw and for Hw in 2009 and for Fdc in 2010.

6. Robb Bennett – Pest management

- Provided an overview of the PMTAC and ongoing work

7. Diane Douglas – Extension TAC

- Presented extension projects in progress and planned

8. Dave Kolotelo – Genetic Conservation TAC

- Presented GCTAC activities and an overview of the Genetic Conservation Plan presented to and accepted by the FGC.

NOTE: April 3rd retirement celebration planned at the Provincial Seed Centre for Cheryl Calum